

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OIC-04

DRC-01 EUR-25 /123 W

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O 250509Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2010

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2443

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE: INVITATION TO "PRG"

PERSONAL FOR ILLING (VAT)

REF: SAIGON 2413

1. I NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT THE GVN LISTS THE VATICAN POSITION AS UNCERTAIN IN THE FORTHCOMING VOTE ON THE ADMITTANCE OF THE PRG AS A FULL PARTICIPANT TO THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE.

2. THE PRG RESERVATIONS TO ARTICLE 4 OF CONVENTION III IN THEIR INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF AUGUST 12, 1949, WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PLACING THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE RECENT MASSACRE AT THE ROME AIRPORT UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE LAWS OF WAR. IT IS SIMPLY INCONCEIVABLE THAT IF THIS WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS HOLINESS HE WOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCT THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE THAT A NEGATIVE VOTE BE CAST IN GENEVA. EVEN ABSTENTION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF ASSOCIATING THE VATICAN IMPLICITLY WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS PRG POSITION AND I HOPE THAT THIS CAN BE MADE CLEAR TO THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE.

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MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, WAR, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PRG, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON02443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740211/aaaaakcx.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 2413
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE: INVITATION TO "PRG" PERSONAL FOR ILLING (VAT)
TAGS: PARM, VN, VS, ICRC
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005